

Welcome Home

Your guide to all things fresh, feel-good and country

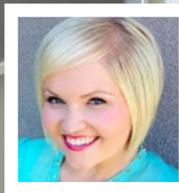
Mom-daughter turkey team20
Edible flowers ..24
DIY potting station.....28
Vintage paper crafting30

[LIVE IT]

Make a Mudroom

Organize your entryway with these small-space solutions.

BY LEAH WYNALEK



Add a Storage Nook

Fed up with the lack of storage space in her house, Shelley Smith took action and turned her hall closet into a clutter control center. "When everything has a place, it's so much easier to keep life organized," says the blogger at thehouseofsmiths.com. "Baskets for lightbulbs, extension cords and batteries were crucial. Those now-and-then necessities were always hard to find before we actually designated a spot for them."

BEFORE



AFTER



BRIGHT IDEA!
Hang a wall clock in your garage entryway to keep tabs on the time as you're rushing out the door.



Once Shelley had her solution, she got started right away. "I decided to knock through my entryway wall before my husband even came home from work, so his reaction was priceless." The crafty couple made big wooden drawers (at bottom of nook, left) using pre-cut boards, rope for handles and a bit of handiwork. "No need to stack anything nicely for kids in a rush," Shelley says. "They can just throw everything in, shove the drawer back in place, and everything looks clean and organized still!"

BRIGHT IDEAS!

- ① Maximize storage with extra baskets, shelving and hooks. "And don't forget the labels," Shelley says, "so everyone's clear on what goes where."
- ② Sort mail, magazines or schoolwork in wire desk trays to keep the paper pileup off your kitchen counter.
- ③ Switch out pillow covers by season, or hang string lights around the framed opening to dress up your nook. "It's just fun to have a new space to decorate!" says Shelley.

@ Tidy things up with a handy DIY storage locker. Go to countrywomanmagazine.com/locker for the project instructions.



Doorway Drop-Off

The garage entry is a hot spot in Toni Hammersley's home, so the brain behind **abowfuloflemons.net** turned that space into an organization station. "The hooks are great for jackets and scarves, the basket for shoes, and the wall organizer for umbrellas," she says. "When planning, I made a list of what needed to be organized and went with it." The simple setup even keeps her kids in check. "The less our kids have to think about organizing, the more they are likely to do it."



CLOSET: THE HOUSE OF SMITHS; GARAGE: ABOWFULOFLEMONS.NET

Double Duty

The entrance to Bre Doucette's farmhouse leads right into the kitchen, making it easy for shoes to heap up at the door. "I needed something to hide the mess," says the DIYer at roomsforrentblog.com. "That's when the bench idea came into play. I was constantly bending down to tie little shoes and needed a place my kids could easily hop on to for me to assist them." She turned her bench into a cubby for vintage crates, which slide underneath to stash away the clutter. Bins and "baskets are your best friends, and if they have lids, it's even better," Bre says. "Don't be fooled into getting baskets that are too small. They won't suit your storage needs, and then clutter just piles up around them."



hello



Rack & Stack

"Our home has a little entryway—I would even go as far as to say no entryway," says Alma Arrieta at almafied.com. A small step ladder keeps shoes off her floor. To make the most of wall space, she built a catchall coat hanger using hooks, leftover pallet boards and chalk paint. Now Alma never sees coats on the stair rail anymore. "Getting strong anchors and big hooks is the way to go!" she says. The rack can "hold all our coats, hoodies, hats and even my purses at once. And we are a family of five, so I'd say that's pretty impressive!" ■

